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# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

**Medical Officer of Health**

*for 1956*



RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY



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RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the Port Medical Officer of Health for Year 1956

WATERLOO HOUSE,  
WATERLOO ROAD,  
BLYTH.  
January, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the River Blyth Port Health Authority.

Gentlemen,

Once again it is my privilege to place before you the Annual Report on the work of the Port Health Administration for the Port of Blyth, for the year 1956.

As in preceding years this report is presented in accordance with the instructions issued by the the Minister of Health—Form Port 20, and Circular 33/52. Detailed information will be found in the Sections I to XVI.

The total number of vessels which arrived during the year was 3,703, including Fishing Vessels. This is a slight increase on the previous year. Foreign Vessels (Foreign and Coastwise) numbered 818, including Fishing Vessels. The number of arrivals direct from Foreign Ports was about the same as in the previous year.

The amount of Coal and Coke shipped from the Port during the year was 5,158,884 tons, also 112,587 tons of Bunker Coal, a very slight decrease on the previous twelve months. Imports discharged at the Port were: Timber 16,033 loads, Cement 44,159 tons, Sand 18,384 tons, Roofing Tiles and Sundries 9,439 tons.

**PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952**

The above Regulations became operative from the 1st October, 1952, and deal with the Infectious Diseases, now to be known as Quarantinable Diseases, sanitary control of ships and persons, Deratting Certificates, etc. Certificates issued will be found in the appropriate Tables.

**INSPECTION OF VESSELS**

The work of dealing with nuisances and defects (structural and otherwise) will be found in the appropriate tables included in the report.

Mr. Dilks, Port Health Inspector, retired after 28 years of devoted service to the Authority. Mr. Godfrey has been appointed to succeed Mr. Dilks.

I again record with pleasure the kind assistance received from time to time from the Blyth Harbour Commission, River Pilots, H.M. Customs Officers, Immigration Officer, also the Ministry of Transport Surveyors for their help and co-operation with the staff of the Port Health Authority.

R. J. P. R. CAMPBELL, M.B., Ch.B.,  
Medical Officer of Health,

# RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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## MEMBERS OF AUTHORITY AT 4th JUNE, 1956

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Chairman : COUNCILLOR A. RUTHERFORD.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR A. H. PAYNE.

ALDERMAN G. COLPITTS.

ALDERMAN A. WALTON, J.P.

COUNCILLOR E. BREADIN.

„ J. W. KENNEDY.

„ P. MAW.

„ MRS. M. PURVES.

COUNCILLOR E. PURVIS.

„ M. K. ROACH.

„ W. B. ROBSON.

„ J. W. TAYLOR.

# SECTION I—Staff

Table A

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointments held
MR. W. T. HARRISON	Clerk to the Authority	1st September, 1944		Deputy Town Clerk, Borough of Blyth.
MISS L. OWEN ...	Deputy Clerk to the Authority	1st October, 1947	A.C.I.S.	Town Clerk's Staff, Borough of Blyth.
DR. R. J. P. R. CAMPBELL	Medical Officer of Health	1st October, 1949	M.B., Ch.B.	General Practice.
DR. A. M. TAIT ...	Deputy Medical Officer of Health	1st July, 1951	M.B., Ch.B.	General Practice.
MR. JOHN DILKS ...	Public Health Inspector	15th June, 1928	Public Health Inspectors Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Food Cert. R.S.I.	None.
MR. ROBERT H. CRAMP ...	Rodent Officer	11th January, 1952		None
MISS ANN HARRIS ...	Office Clerk	1st March, 1954		None

Dr. R. J. P. R. Campbell's address :  
WATERLOO HOUSE, WATERLOO ROAD, BLYTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.  
Telephone No. : BLYTH 226.

# SECTION II

Amount of Shipping entering the District during the year

Table B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having or having had Infectious Diseases on board during the Voyage.
			By the M.O.H.	By the Public Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports ...	221	172,640	24	221	1
Coastwise Ports ...	3,225	2,162,428	53	3,223	1
TOTALS ...	3,446	2,335,068	77	3,444	2

FISHING VESSELS—				No.	Tonnage
Foreign	...	...	...	250	22,011
Coastwise	...	...	...	7	250

## Crews

Foreign	Coastwise	Fishing	Total
7,855	44,750	3,858	56,463



### SECTION III

#### Character of Shipping and Trade during the year 1956

Table C

Passenger Traffic ...	{	Number of Passengers INWARDS ... ..	53
		Number of Passengers OUTWARDS ... ..	63
		Passengers on Temporary Shore Leave ... ..	87

There is no regular passenger traffic at this Port (See table for Aliens).

Cargo Traffic ...	{	Principal Imports ... ..	{	Sand ... ..	18,384 tons
				Mining Timber ... ..	12,588 „
	{		{	Other Timber ... ..	3,445 „
				Cement ... ..	44,159 „
				Roofing Tiles ... ..	3,082 „
				Sundry ... ..	6,357 „
	{	Principal Exports ... ..	{	Coal & Coke (Cargo) ... ..	5,158,884 „
				(Bunkers) ... ..	112,537 „
				Fuel Oil (Bunkers) ... ..	3,527 „
				Sundry ... ..	1,663 „

Fish landed was valued at £13,687.

The following are the Ports from which vessels have arrived :—

#### FOREIGN PORTS—

NORWAY ... ..	Bergen, Aalsund, Harum, Christiansand, Oslo, Haugesund, Sauda, Frederikstad.
SWEDEN ... ..	Gothenborg, Helsingborg, Limham, Oskarshamn.
DENMARK... ..	Copenhagen, Aarhus, Veile, Elsinore, Odense, Kolding, Hobro, Bolborg, Struer, Kyndby, Fredericia, Nyborg, Esbjerg.
HOLLAND ... ..	Ymuiden, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Dordrecht, Groningen, Delfzijl.
GERMANY ... ..	Emden, Bremen, Hamburg, Lubeck, Kiel, Altona.
BELGIUM ... ..	Ostend, Antwerp, Bruges, Nieuport, Zeebrugge, Ghent.
FRANCE ... ..	Dunkirk, Boulogne, Calais, St. Malo, Rouen, Granville, Treport.
FINLAND ... ..	Akureyri.
POLAND ... ..	Danzig.
ICELAND ... ..	Reykjavik.
FAROE ISLES ... ..	Faroe.

## **SECTION IV**

### **Inland Barge Traffic**

There is no barge traffic at the Port.

## **SECTION V**

### **Water Supply**

No change.

## **SECTION VI**

### **Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952**

No change.

## **SECTION VII**

### **Smallpox**

1.—The Northern Regional Hospitals Board have made arrangements for the admission of Smallpox cases to the Langley Park Isolation Hospital, Co. Durham (Telephone No. : Chester-le-Street 3207). The Doctor in charge of this Hospital will be Dr. Gavin Miller, of Sacriston, Co. Durham. His Telephone No. is Sacriston 232.

2.—The Northumberland County Council are responsible for the ambulance service. Dr. A. Donaldson, the Medical Officer for the Blyth and Bedlingtonshire Local Authorities, is responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

#### **3.—NAMES OF SMALLPOX CONSULTANTS AVAILABLE :—**

DR. J. R. BEAL,  
109, Great North Road,  
Gosforth, 3,  
Newcastle upon Tyne.  
Telephone No. : Gosforth 5-2240.

DR. WILSON MINNS,  
16, Rectory Drive,  
Gosforth, 3.  
Newcastle upon Tyne.  
Telephone No. : Gosforth 5-4282.

4.—FACILITIES FOR LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS OF SMALLPOX. Laboratory facilities are provided at the General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4.

## **SECTION VIII**

### **Venereal Disease**

No change.

## SECTION IX

**Table D**

Cases of notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on ships.

Category	Disease	Number of Cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from Foreign Ports ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports, but have been disposed of before arrival ... ..	Scarlet Fever	—	1	1
Cases landed from other ships ... ..	Tuberculosis	—	1	1

No other infectious diseases occurred in the Port.

## SECTION X

### Observation on the occurrence of Malaria in Ships

The trade of the Port is principally with Scandinavia and the low countries. On very rare occasions there may be ships from South America and the Mediterranean or India. Over a period of years no case of Malaria has been reported.

## SECTION XI

### Measures taken against Ships infected with or suspected of Plague

Inquiries as to the prevalence of rats are made on all ships in Port (whether in possession of Deratting Certificates or Deratting Exemption Certificates or not) and a systematic inspection is carried out on all ships arriving directly or otherwise from foreign ports.

A systematic search for evidence of infestation is carried out on all vessels.

## SECTION XII

### Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports

1.—On arrival at the Port vessels are examined and if there is any evidence of rats notice is at once served on the Master. The Port Health Authority have their own official Rodent Operator. Particular attention is given to vessels arriving directly or indirectly from infected areas.

2.—Rats caught were examined, and all specimens appeared healthy. None showed any abnormal lesions, and none were therefore sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne.



3.—When a vessel is found to be infested with rats notice is served on the Master requesting fumigation. He, through his Agent, gets in touch with an authorised firm of fumigators to carry out the work. The chief and most popular method is by Hydrogen Cyanide. The standard required for International purposes is strictly adhered to. Sulphur Dioxide is now rarely used.

When vessels are undergoing fumigation every precaution is taken, such as posting of notices on the ships, also the fencing off of the gangways to render the process as free as possible from accidents. The minimum period for exposure for this gas is two hours, generally four to six in practice, and this effects a considerable saving of time compared with the older method of Sulphur Dioxide.

Contractors who carry out fumigations HCN at this port are :—

Messrs. A. MILBURN & Co. LTD.,  
Mill Dam,  
South Shields.

Messrs. BARBER & HERRON,  
Templetown,  
Tyne Dock,  
South Shields.

4.—In the construction of modern vessels considerable progress has been made in the provision of rat-proof compartments. Bulkheads and partitions are usually steel, and with a minimum of timber, it is difficult for rodents to find harbourage. Modern Naval Architecture is coping with the problem satisfactorily.

**Table E**

**Rodents destroyed during the year in Ships from Foreign Ports**

Category	Number
Black Rats      ...      ...      ...      ...	125
Brown Rats      ...      ...      ...      ...	—
Species not known      ...      ...      ...	—
Sent for examination      ...      ...      ...	—
Infected with Plague      ...      ...      ...	—

All specimens have been examined microscopically.

The total number of brown rats recovered from the Quayside after poison baits have been put down as 683.

Table F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1956  
for Ships from Foreign Ports

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
After Fumigation with		After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
HCN	Other Fumigant (state method)					
—	—	1	—	1	109	110

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates  
issued during the year 1956

Net Tonnage	No. of Ships	No. of Deratisation Certificates issued				No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued	Total of Certificates issued
		After Fumigation with			After Trapping, Poisoning, &c.		
		HCN	Sulphur	HCN and Sulphur			
Ships up to 300 tons ...	29	—	—	—	—	29	29
Ships from 301 tons to 1,000 tons... ..	41	—	—	—	—	41	41
Ships from 1,001 tons to 3,000 tons... ..	35	—	—	—	—	35	35
Ships from 3,001 tons to 10,000 tons ...	5	—	—	—	1	4	5
Ships over 10,000 tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	110	—	—	—	1	109	110

### SECTION XIII

#### Inspection of Ships for Nuisances

Table G

#### Inspection and Notices

Nature and number of Inspections		Notices Served		Result of Serving Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Routine Inspections...	S/S 2,032	Nil	125	Defects remedied
Do. ...	M.V. 1,412	Do.	38	Do.
Do. ...	F.V. 257	Do.	—	Do.
TOTAL ...	3,701	Do.	163	Do.

### SECTION XIV

#### Public Health (Shell-fish Regulations) 1934 and 1948

No Change.

### SECTION XVI

#### Miscellaneous

Mortuary—No change.

Food Inspection—No change.

#### NATIONALITIES OF SHIPS

British	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,878
Dutch	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	204
Danish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Swedish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Norwegian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
German	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	153
Finnish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Panamanian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
French	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Liberian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Icelandic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Port Rican	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Polish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Greek	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Turkish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Belgian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Venezuela...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Costa Rican	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Carried forward 3,446



Brought forward 3,446

### Fishing Vessels

British	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Dutch	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	245
German	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Icelandic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Polish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Russian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
									<hr/> 257
GRAND TOTAL FOR YEAR									<hr/> <hr/> 3,703

### VESSELS BOARDED

The following table gives a list of vessels boarded during the year by the Medical Officer of Health or Public Health Inspector on account of disease on board during the voyage or whilst in Port.

All cases set out below received attention and treatment.

Date	Name of Vessel and Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness
1. 1.56	Cormarsh (British)	London	2nd Officer	Gall Stones
12. 1.56	Constantia (Finn)	Sunderland	3 Sailors	Suspected T.B. & 2 V.D.
16. 1.56	Camroux I (British)	London	Captain	Throat trouble
23. 1.56	Cormarsh (British)	London	Sailor	Thrombosis
1. 2.56	Leicesterbrook (British)	Rosyth	Sailor	Throat trouble
8. 2.56	Cormount (British)	London	Mate	Influenza
8. 2.56	Gannochy (British)	Tyne	Captain	Fractured spine
18. 2.56	Servic (British)	Middlesbrough	Sailor	Fractured ankle
19. 2.56	Nordic (Swede)	Aberdeen	Captain	Bronchitis
20. 2.56	Hudson Cape (British)	London	Bo'sun	Injured finger
26. 2.56	Hudson Cape (British)	London	Sailor	Head injuries
29. 2.56	Lesrix (British)	Aberdeen	Sailor	Injured knee
14. 3.56	Mado II (Dutch)	Antwerp	Sailor	Injured hand
17. 3.56	Allan (Swede)	Amsterdam	1st Engineer	Dermatitis
18. 3.56	Guewe (Dutch)	Hamburg	3 Seamen	Dental caries
"	" "	"	3rd Eng.	V.D.
"	" "	"	Seaman	V.D.
"	" "	"	Officer	Lumbago
"	" "	"	Seaman	Injured finger
8. 4.56	Essexbrook (British)	London	Wireless Operator	Suspected Scarlet Fever
12. 4.56	Helene B. Schupp (German)	Le Treport	Deck Boy	Inflammation of eye
12. 4.56	Orion (Dane)	Ghent	Sailor	V.D.
21. 4.56	Emma Sauber (German)	Leith	Captain	Stomach trouble
28. 4.56	Lisbet (Finn)	Aalborg	Sailor	Dental caries
2. 5.56	Ingerous (Finn)	London	Captain	Eczema
16. 5.56	S/T Gregory (British)	Gravesend	Fisherman	Stomach trouble
29. 5.56	Mendip (British)	Portsmouth	Fireman	Influenza

### Vessels Boarded—continued

Date	Name of Vessel and Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness
10. 6.56	Georgina V. Everard (British)	Aalborg	Mate	Accident to arm
11. 6.56	Hebe Nobel (Dutch)	Ostend	Captain	Neuritis
20. 6.56	Cormoat (British)	London	Sailor	Neuralgia
10. 7.56	Georgina V. Everard (British)	Aalborg	Mate	Accident to arm
11. 7.56	Hebe Nobel (Dutch)	Ostend	Captain	Neuralgia
20. 7.56	Cormoat (British)	London	Sailor	Dental caries
4. 8.56	R.A.F. Prosperous (British)	Pembroke	Rigger	T.B.
5. 8.56	Lilian Dan (Dane)	Rouen	Fireman	Ear trouble
16. 9.56	Lord Citrine (British)	Sunderland	Sailor	Salmonella Poisoning
29. 9.56	Captain Dimitrus (Greek)	Sunderland	Sailor	Appendicitis
15.10.56	Jan Keiken (German)	Shoreham	Cook	Stomach trouble
18.10.56	Fraternite (Dutch)	Portsmouth	Mate	Chest trouble
18.10.56	Nordic Queen (British)	Plymouth	Mate	Influenza
19.10.56	Arnewood (British)	London	D'keyman	Scalds
28.10.56	Tora (Norge)	Hull	2nd Mate	V.D.
30.10.56	Elfy North (Dane)	Amsterdam	Captain	Accident to arm
1.12.56	Jim M. (British)	London	Sailor	Accident to arm
4.12.56	Copeswood (British)	London	Mate	Stomach trouble
12.12.56	Foreland (British)	London	Sailor	Accident to hand
24.12.56	Daphnia (Swede)	London	Sailor	Accident

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

#### Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951

9 Rodent Control Certificates were issued during the year.

### NOTES ON SOME CASES REPORTED

16th January, 1956. M.V. Camroux I (British). The Master of this vessel after arrival from London, complained of throat trouble. He was examined and sent to hospital for treatment, after which he rapidly improved and sailed later with his ship.

8th February, 1956. S.S. Cormount (British). On arrival from London the Chief Officer was reported sick. After examination he was found to be suffering from Influenza. He received treatment and soon recovered.

18th March, 1956. S.S. Guewe (Dutch). Several members of this vessel were examined after arrival from Hamburg. Two of the crew were found to be suffering from Venereal Disease, also two from non-infectious trouble.

18th April, 1956. S.S. Essexbrook (British). After arrival from London it was reported that the Wireless Operator had been taken ashore at that port, and was suspected to be suffering from Scarlet Fever. Dr. Campbell examined the remainder of the crew but all were found in good health. As a precautionary measure the accommodation was disinfected before the ship sailed.



21st April, 1956. S.S. Emma Sauber (German). The Master of this vessel was reported sick after arrival from Leith. After being examined, he was found to have some stomach disorder.

5th August, 1956. S.S. Lilian Dan (Danish). A fireman was found to be suffering from an infection of the ear after arrival from Rouen. He received appropriate treatment during the vessel's stay in Port.

16th September, 1956. S.S. Lord Citrine (British). A sailor was examined on this vessel after arrival from Sunderland, and was later removed to hospital for observation and treatment. He was diagnosed as suffering from Food Poisoning. He soon recovered and further investigation of the other members of the crew was that nothing more developed.

29th September, 1956. Captain Demetrius (Greek). During this vessel's stay in Dry Dock for extensive repairs a fireman was reported ill. On examination he was found to be suffering from Appendicitis. He underwent an operation and made a good recovery.

19th October, 1956. S.S. Nordic Queen (British). After arrival from Plymouth, the Chief Officer was later found to be suffering from Influenza. He received Medical attention, and was practically recovered before the vessel sailed.

#### VESSELS FOUND HAVING STRUCTURAL OR SANITARY DEFECTS

	Structural Defects		Sanitary Defects		TOTAL
	Foreign	Coastwise	Foreign	Coastwise	
British Steam ... ..	—	57	—	65	122
British Motor ... ..	—	19	—	18	37
British Sail ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign Steam ... ..	1	1	—	1	3
Foreign Motor ... ..	—	1	—	—	1
Foreign Sail ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ... ..	1	78	—	84	163

A quantity of Food Stuff was condemned on one vessel after being found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption.

An Officer's quarters were fumigated after notification had been received from a previous Port that a suspected case of Scarlet Fever had been removed from the Ship concerned.

Two vessels were fumigated for Cockroach infestation.

Three vessels had structural alterations carried out, this included better Sanitary arrangements, and improved facilities for storage of food.



## DEFECTS

	Work in hand	Work completed	TOTAL
Forecastles to clean and paint out ... ..	—	15	15
Forecastles to repair ... ..	—	8	8
Fresh water tanks to clean and cement ... ..	—	21	21
Galley stoves repaired and renewed ... ..	—	7	7
Galleys to clean and paint ... ..	—	4	4
Galleys to repair ... ..	—	6	6
57 Port Lights renewed ... ..	—	22	22
Radiators to repair ... ..	—	14	14
New Bogies to fix ... ..	—	8	8
Food lockers repaired and renewed ... ..	—	4	4
Pantry to repair ... ..	—	1	1
Provision store to clean and paint ... ..	—	1	1
Mess rooms to paint and repair ... ..	—	4	4
Mess room table to renew ... ..	—	1	1
Refrigerator to repair ... ..	—	1	1
Deck light to renew ... ..	—	1	1
Sky lights to renew and repair ... ..	—	3	3
Ventilator to repair ... ..	—	1	1
Bathroom to repair ... ..	—	2	2
Bath waste pipe to clear ... ..	—	1	1
Sanitary tanks and pipes to repair ... ..	—	10	10
Scuppers to clean out ... ..	—	3	3
Lavatory basins to renew ... ..	—	2	2
W.C.'s to repair ... ..	—	17	17
W.C.'s flushed on to Quay ... ..	—	6	6
	—	163	163

## VESSELS ARRIVING FROM INFECTED OR SUSPECTED PORTS

The following table gives the number of vessels boarded in Blyth by the Officers of the Port Health Authority, on account of them coming directly or indirectly from Foreign Ports, infected or suspected of being infected with Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Smallpox, Typhus Fever, or Relapsing Fever.

1956	From Infected Ports to Blyth		From Suspected Ports to Blyth		TOTAL
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
January ...	—	—	—	2	2
February ...	—	—	—	2	2
March ...	—	1	—	1	2
April ...	—	—	—	4	4
May ...	—	—	—	2	2
June ...	—	—	—	3	3
July ...	—	—	—	1	1
August ...	—	—	—	1	1
September ...	—	—	3	1	4
October ...	—	—	—	1	1
November...	—	—	—	3	3
December ...	—	—	—	2	2
TOTAL ...	—	1	3	23	27











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Wm. Dresser & Sons, Ltd.  
Crown Street . Darlington

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